

Message Text

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15
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 SSM-03 /087 W

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R 041507Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8075
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PO, XF
SUBJECT: SOARES PLEDGES NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

REF: (A) LISBON 5212 (NOTAL), (B) LISBON 4268

SUMMARY: THE INTENT OF THE SOARES GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH
FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL IS CLEAR. ONLY
THE TIMING IS IN QUESTION. END SUMMARY.

1. IN PRESENTING THE FOREIGN POLICY SECTION OF HIS
GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM, PRIME MINISTER SOARES SAID HE
WOULD MOVE TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL (REF A).
IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES GENERATED BY SOARES STATEMENT,
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A FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN SUBSEQUENTLY STATED THAT

IT WAS "PRACTICALLY CERTAIN THAT PORTUGAL WOULD ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES." THE SAME SOURCE ADDED THAT NO SPECIFIC CONTACTS HAD YET BEEN MADE WITH ISRAEL BUT THAT CONTACTS WERE ALMOST CERTAIN TO BE INITIATED FOLLOWING APPROVAL OF THE SOCIALIST PROGRAM.

2. COMMENT: THE STATEMENTS BY SOARES AND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN ARE FURTHER CONFIRMATION OF THE SOCIALIST INTENT TO ESTABLISH FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AT AN EARLY DATE. ONLY THE PACE OF NORMALIZATION IS IN QUESTION. AS POINTED OUT IN REF (B), TIMING WILL DEPEND ON REACTIONS TO EARLY STEPS IN THIS DIRECTION.
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